

WAIHEKE CHORAL SOCIETY

President's Report for the Year Ending December 2024.

The choir continues to attract a good following , especially to our Christmas Concert, which has become part of the island tradition.

We are a well established choir. I joined the choir first in 1987, singing with Carolyns father, Anne Jocelyn, Kit Nelson, Phil Symonds and many others. The choir was already well established then. From our web site we have been going for 49 years. We have done at least two concerts a year, and some very popular shows. We have accumulated wealth. We have everything we need. We are in the enviable position of being able to donate virtually all our concert profits to local charities and organisations, which is a wonderful thing, we should be supporting our local community.

But on the down side the choir remains static in its own development.

I'm not so sure that this is such a good thing, while I appreciate we are as a group growing older, and so therefore find the familiar reassuring and comforting, it is good for us as individuals to have challenges, to have something to aspire to and strive towards. Maybe we need to spend a little time outside our comfort zones for self development.. We can afford to put some resources into ourselves if we choose to. A choir that is going somewhere, doing something exciting, has a much better chance of attracting new members, and growing.

I have taken the initial steps to start this process and am hoping the choir will decide to host the well known and respected NZ composer of choral works, David Hamilton for a workshop later this year.

Anne has covered our events over the past year nicely her report, and I agree with her vote of thanks to our guest artists, some of whom stepped in at very short notice Also I think a big thank you to our committee members Mark James and Sandy Alley who competently picked up the baton when the need arose, and to Carolyn and Gavin Smart without whom there would be no music, either to see or hear.

Of course a very big vote of thanks has to go to Anne Willmann who puts many hours of preparation into our program, and always presents as a professional. Also thank you Anne for the work you have put into the various arrangements of our songs to make them suitable for the choir.

I will be stepping down from the position of President this year due to other commitments I now have on a Tuesday night, but would encourage you all to persist with your singing, and your musical learning. We all know music can bring great joy into our souls.

Berlioz famously said:

Which of the two powers, Love or Music, can elevate man to the sublimest heights? ... It is a problem, and yet it seems to me that this is the answer: 'Love can give no idea of music; music can give an idea of love.' ... Why separate them? They are two wings of the soul.and as one.

I would also encourage you to try new things, and to know no fear. You have a good teacher in Anne.

Sylvia Hubbard 5/3/2025